

Message Text

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TAGS: AFIN, OECD

SUBJECT: 1976 OECD BUDGET PROJECTION

REF: STATE 156551

1. SUMMARY: INITIAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PROPOSAL TO BASE 1976 PART I BUDGET ON AN INCREASE OF 2.5 PERCENT IN REAL TERMS REFLECTED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY IN PRINCIPLE FOR TARGET BUDGET FIGURE EMBODYING SMALL INCREASE IN REAL TERMS BUT NO DELEGATION WAS PREPARED TO MAKE COMMITMENT ON FUNDING AT THIS TIME. COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF TARGET BUDGET ON JULY 10, WHEN SECGEN IS EXPECTED TO MAKE MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF CONSIDERATIONS UNDERLYING PROPOSED INCREASE. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY-GENERAL SOUGHT FIRM AGREEMENT ON TARGET BUDGET FIGURE ON GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO MORE EFFICIENT PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING BUDGET PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD ALLOW HIM TO RESOLVE COMPETING CLAIMS FOR RESOURCES AT AN EARLY STAGE AND TO DEVELOP A WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET THAT WOULD SHOW SIGNIFICANT REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO NEW PRIORITY AREAS. IF TARGET FIGURE WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREED UPON, SECGEN ARGUED THAT BUDGET DISCUSSIONS IN

FALL COULD BE SHORTENED TO MORE TECHNICAL EXAMINATION AND LIMITED DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMS. HE CLAIMED THAT WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENT ON TARGET FIGURE, COMPETING DEMANDS FROM NATIONAL DELEGATIONS AND WITHIN SECRETARIAT WOULD FORCE HIM TO PROPOSE BUDGET CALLING FOR MORE THAN 2.5 PERCENT INCREASE. SECRETARY-GENERAL NOTED THAT 2.5 PERCENT WOULD ENTAIL CONSIDERABLE REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES WITHIN SECRETARIAT AND URGED GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE THEIR VIEWS ON AREAS WHERE DECREASES MAY BE POSSIBLE.

3. MOST DELEGATIONS WELCOMED EARLY INDICATION OF BUDGET TARGET FOR 1976 AND WERE WILLING TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY A BUDGET CALLING FOR A SMALL INCREASE IN REAL TERMS. ONLY UK, WITH SUPPORT FROM ITALY AND SWEDEN, FLATLY OPPOSED ANY INCREASE IN REAL TERMS FOR THE PART I BUDGET. OTHER DELEGATIONS INCLUDING JAPAN, GERMANY, CANADA, FRANCE AND US INDICATED THAT THEY WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE FUNDING COMMITMENTS FOR AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS PRIOR TO A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF ENTIRE PROGRAM AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS. WHILE NOT NECESSARILY OPPOSING REAL INCREASE IN PART I BUDGET, MOST DELEGATIONS FOUND SECGEN'S EXPLANATION OF CONSIDERATIONS UNDERLYING PROPOSED 2.5 PERCENT INCREASE INSUFFICIENTLY DETAILED.

4. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FOR PLANNING PURPOSES PREPARATION OF BUDGET CONTAINING INCREASE IN REAL TERMS OF 2.5 PERCENT BUT DEFER ANY COMMITMENT ON FUNDING UNTIL AFTER PROGRAM AND BUDGET DOCUMENT IS ISSUED AND CAREFULLY EXAMINED.

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